



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

February 22, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Mayor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – STREET
ACADEMY INCORPORATED, SITES I AND II**

We have completed a review of Street Academy I and II Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Street Academy, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Street Academy Group Homes, Sites I and II, are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Street Academy Group Home Site I was providing services for five Los Angeles County Probation children. Street Academy Group Home Site II was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Street Academy Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the following deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Street Academy Site I needs to maintain adequate documentation to show that all children are receiving treatment services identified in the Needs and Services Plans.

Street Academy Site II needs to clean the stove top and oven, remove or replace the non-working dishwasher, remove the spider webs from the ceiling in the children's bedrooms, and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining life books/photo albums.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Barbara Oknokwo, Executive Director, Street Academy Group Homes
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Street Academy Group Home Site I
5132 Cimarron Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90062
Phone: (323) 936-2120
License Number: 198204147
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Street Academy Group Home Site I is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, all members of the treatment team are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

One case file does not reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

Recommendations**1. Street Academy management:**

- a. Include the placement worker as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short and long term goals.
- c. Maintain adequate documentation to show that all children are receiving treatment services identified in the NSPs.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medication. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. The children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 2. Street Academy management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

Street Academy Group Home Site II
2120 Redondo Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90016
Phone: (323) 936-2120
License Number: 197600088
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Street Academy Site II Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the kitchen stove top and oven are dirty and the dishwasher is not working.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, there are spider webs on the ceiling in the children's bedrooms.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Street Academy management:

- a. Clean the stove top and oven.**
- b. Remove or replace the dishwasher.**
- c. Remove all spider webs from the ceilings in the children's bedrooms.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. However, the NSPs are not current, comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

- 2. Street Academy management maintain current and comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and include short and long term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

3. Street Academy management:

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.
- b. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**STREET ACADEMY GROUP HOME SITE I
5132 CIMMARRON AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90062
PHONE: (323) 936-2120
LICENSE NO: 198204147
RATE CLASSIFICATION LEVEL: 9**

August 22, 2006

To: Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor

From: Barbara Okonkwo
Administrator

RE: Corrective Action Plans

As a result of the program audit conducted on June 13, 2006, the following recommendations were made and corrected by Street Academy staff on or before July 1, 2006.

Recommendations:

Program Services:

- a. *Include input from the placement workers in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.*

Corrective action: Input from client's Needs and Services Plans will be obtained by client's Probation Officer/County Social Worker during monthly meetings with Probation Officer/County Social Worker and/or by fax transmission. The Administrator will check all clients Needs and Service Plans regularly to ensure they are measurable, quantitative, address short and long term goals and are kept current.

- b. *Maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable quantitative, and include long and short term goals.*

Corrective action: Facility social worker will maintain current comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, quantitative, and address short and long term goals. The social worker (LCSW) will ensure that Needs and Service Plans are in accordance with the county contract. The Administrator will check all clients Needs and Service Plans and ensure they are measurable, quantitative, and address long and short term goals. The Administrator will check all Needs and Services Plans to ensure they are kept current.

- c. *Provide adequate documentation to show that all children are receiving treatment services identified in the Needs and Service Plans.*

Corrective Action:

Facility social worker will address the treatment services that are identified in the Needs and Service Plans and show that all clients are receiving treatment services according to the plan. The Administrator will check all Needs and Services Plans monthly to ensure that goals and objectives are being met according to their plans.

It is the responsibility of the Administrator to ensure that all Needs and Service Plans and treatment plans are implemented and maintained.

d. Provide all children with the minimum weekly allowance

Corrective Action: The facility manager will provide clients with their minimum weekly allowance. Program Director will ensure all clients are paid minimum weekly allowance.

It is the responsibility of the Program Director to monitor and ensure that all corrective actions have been implemented and maintained.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (323) 936-2120.

Thank you



Barbara Okonkwo
Administrator

STREET ACADEMY GROUP HOME SITE II
2120 S. REDONDO BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90016
(323) 936-2120
LICENSE NO. 197600088
RATE CLASSIFICATION: LEVEL 9

August 22, 2006

To: Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor

From: Barbara Okonkwo
Administrator

RE: Corrective Action Plans

As a result of the program audit conducted on June 8, 2006, the following recommendations were made and corrected by Street Academy staff on or before July 1, 2006.

Recommendations:

Physical and Ground:

a. *Remove or repair the dishwasher in the kitchen.*

Corrective action: the old dishwasher has been replaced with a new one. The night staff will use the dishwasher to do the breakfast dishes and will be responsible for making certain that it is kept in working order.

b. *Clean the stove top and the oven.*

Corrective action: It is the responsibility of the night staff to ensure that the stove is kept clean at all times.

c. *Remove all spider webs from the ceiling in the children's bedrooms*

Corrective action: The facility manager will check for any spider webs in and around the facility. Street Academy has hired Beetle Termite Company to spray on a monthly basis for spiders and other insects. All facility managers must ensure that all rooms are clean and free of any spider webs.

Program Services:

a. *Maintain current comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and include short and long term goals.*

Corrective Action: The Facility social worker will maintain current comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, and address short and long term goals. The social worker (LCSW) will ensure that Needs and Service Plans are in accordance with the county contract. The Administrator will check all clients Needs and Service Plans regularly to make sure they are measurable, quantitative, and address long and short term goals.

It is the responsibility of the Administrator to ensure that all Needs and Services Plans and treatment goals are implemented and maintained.

b. Provide all children with the minimum weekly allowance

Corrective Action: The facility manager will provide clients with their minimum weekly allowance. Program Director will make sure all clients are paid the minimum weekly allowance.

c. Encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book

Corrective Action: All children have life books. Facility manager will help clients with life books weekly.

It is the responsibility of the Program Director to monitor and ensure that all corrective actions have been implemented and maintained.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (323) 936-2120.

Thank you



Barbara Okonkwo
Administrator